

1 SAMUEL

A BOOK OF TRANSITIONS

THE NAME: “SAMUEL”

- * Meaning: “God’s Name” or “God Heard”
- * Together, 1 and 2 Samuel form one book in the Hebrew Bible. It was known as the “Book of Samuel.”
- * The Greek translation of the Bible, the Septuagint, was the first version to divide the material into two parts.

AUTHORSHIP & FACTS

- * One of the main characters in this book is Samuel. As a Young Prophet, the Last Judge of Israel and a Priest who anointed 2 Kings: Saul & David
- * Though named after its main character, the prophet Samuel, the book does not claim an author.
- * However, Samuel may have written, and he certainly supplied, the information for 1 Samuel 1:1-24:22, which is a biography of his life and career up to his death.
- * First Chronicles 29:29 notes that Samuel, along with Nathan and Gad, recorded the “acts of King David.”
- * Evidence in the writing suggests that the books of 1 and 2 Samuel were compiled by someone from the prophetic school who used documents from Samuel, Nathan, and Gad
- * **CHAPTERS:** 31
- * **VERSES:** 810

ITS PLACE IN HISTORY

- * The events that happen in 1 Samuel took place over a period of about 110 years
- * It stretches from the closing days of the judges, when Samuel was born (ca. 1120 BC) through the death of Saul (1011 BC)

OVERVIEW OF THE BOOK

1st Transition: there is a transition of leadership between the 2 judges - first from the priest Eli to the judge Samuel,

2nd Transition: Israel transitions from theocracy to monarchy. From the judge Samuel to the king Saul,

3rd Transition: A Transition from King Saul to King David.

- * **Chapter: 1-8** - deal with the birth and rise of the Last Judge of Israel: Samuel
- * **Chapter 9-15:** Saul: chosen - anointed - reign - rejected
- * **Chapter 16-30:** The entry of David
- * **Chapter 31:** Wounded Saul commits suicide

THE CHARACTER OF GOD REVEALED

1. GOD WHO HEARS

- * Hannah's Prayer
- * The cry of the People for a King

2. GOD OF JUSTICE

- * Justice for Eli's Family
- * Justice for Saul

3. GOD WHO NEVER RESTS

- * Replaces Eli's family with Samuel
- * Replaces Saul with David

THE FLAWED KING

1. THE HAUGHTINESS OF SAUL

- * His blatant Disobedience of Saul
 - * **1st Test (ch.13):** Go to Gilgal to prepare to fight the Philistines but WAIT for 7 days
 - **1 Samuel 13:8-11** - skilled in blame shifting on people. In verse 12, he says "So I forced myself".
 - * **2nd Test (ch.15):** Go to war with Amelekites. But do not bring anything back.
 - **1 Samuel 15:19-21** - display of many poor leadership traits: Blame shifting, the fear of man, and a disconnect between his leadership and those he leads.
- * Importance to "image-building"



THE FLAWED KING

2. THE HATRED OF SAUL

- * Example for Bad Reasons
- * Comparing | Competing | Coveting |
- * **I Samuel 18:9** : "And Saul eyed David from that day and forward."
- * vs.12-16 - Saul saw God was with David
- * People loved him
- * His daughter and son loved him



THE FLAWED KING

3. THE HIDDEN EVIL

- * Plotting against his own family
- * The unwillingness to Repent and Seek Forgiveness
- * 18:17 - Played foul in David's marriage.
- * vs.22-24 - Putting him in harm's way



OUTLINE OF 1 SAMUEL

I. SAMUEL: God's prophet, priest, and judge, Chapters 1-8

A. Birth of Samuel, Chapters 1, 2

1. Hannah's prayer and answer, 1Sa 1
2. Hannah's prophetic prayer; boy Samuel in temple, 1Sa 2

B. Call of Samuel, Chapter 3

C. Last judge and first prophet (prophetic office), Chapters 4-8

1. Ark captured by Philistines; Word of God to Samuel fulfilled; Eli dies and his sons slain, 1Sa 4
2. God judged Philistines because of the ark; ark returned to Bethshemesh, 1Sa 5, 6
3. Samuel leads in revival (put away idols and turn to Jehovah); victory at Ebenezer, 1Sa 7
4. Israel rejects God and demands a king; Samuel warns nation but promises a king, 1Sa 8

OUTLINE OF 1 SAMUEL

II. SAUL: Chapters 9-15

A. Saul received, Chapters 9, 10

1. Saul chosen as king, 1Sa 9
2. Saul anointed as king, 1Sa 10

B. Saul reigning, Chapters 11,

1. Saul's victory over Ammonites, 1Sa 11
2. Transfer of authority from Samuel to Saul, 1Sa 12

C. Saul rejected, Chapters 13-15

1. Saul's rebellion against God, 1Sa 13
2. Jonathan responsible for victory over Philistines; Saul took credit, 1Sa 14
3. Saul's glaring rebellion and disobedience regarding Agag, 1Sa 15

OUTLINE OF 1 SAMUEL

III. DAVID: God's man, and SAUL: Satan's man, Chapters 16-31

A. David anointed, Chapter 16

B. David trained, Chapters 17, 18

1. David slays Goliath, giant of Gath, 1Sa 17

2. Jonathan and David make covenant; Saul gives daughter Michal to David, 1Sa 18

C. David disciplined, Chapters 19-30

1. Saul attempts to kill David again, 1Sa 19

2. Jonathan helps David escape, 1Sa 20

3. David escapes to Nob and Gath, 1Sa 21

4. David gathers his men; Saul slays priests of God, 1Sa 22

5. David fights Philistines; Saul pursues David; Jonathan and David make covenant, 1Sa 23

6. David spares Saul's life at En-gedi, 1Sa 24

7. Samuel dies; David and Abigail, 1Sa 25

8. David again spares Saul's life in wilderness of Ziph, 1Sa 26

9. David retreats to land of Philistia (Ziklag), 1Sa 27

10. Saul goes to witch of Endor, 1Sa 28

11. Philistines do not trust David in battle, 1Sa 29

12. David fights Amalekites because of destruction of Ziklag, 1Sa 30

D. Saul, mortally wounded in battle, commits suicide, Chapter 31